

rehabilitation and claims assistance they need. Richard even managed to convince me to go several thousand feet underground to visit a coal mine and assess its safety features. And in typical fashion, Richard was quick to ensure the invitation of one of my Republican colleagues to join in this venture.

The Committee on Education & Labor will miss his wealth of knowledge and his enthusiasm for finding ways to improve the life of those workers who lack a voice but need one. We can always count on him to offer what he would call “an observation, not a criticism.”

In conclusion, Richard has led his professional life doing the “good trouble, necessary trouble” that Congressman John Lewis has called us to do. I know that I speak for the Committee in thanking him for his service to this House and the American People and wish him well in his retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2617, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4373, FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1082, SAMI'S LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

One of the most basic and important responsibilities of Congress is to keep the government funded and operating, and it is our obligation to spend taxpayer money wisely. A budget is a statement of values and priorities, and this budget focuses on helping hard-working families get ahead, supporting vulnerable populations at home and abroad, and growing the economy.

This bipartisan bill invests in affordable child care, helps to address the climate crisis, increases the maximum Pell Grant award by \$500, provides \$47 billion for the National Institutes of Health to help develop treatments and cures for chronic diseases, secures funding for manufacturing jobs created by the historic bipartisan Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act, serves veterans exposed to harmful chemicals by providing \$5 billion in mandatory funding under the Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, and includes nearly \$45 billion in emergency and humanitarian aid for Ukraine. The FY23 omnibus bill also includes the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which requires employers to give pregnant workers basic accommodations like an extra bathroom break and stool to sit on, preventing pregnant work-

ers from being discriminated against in the workplace.

This legislation includes several bills and investments I have fought for this Congress. The bill establishes a permanent, nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program to address food insecurity among children when school is out. As the Chair of Education and Labor Committee's Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee, I have been working on needed updates to our federal child nutrition programs. This is an important victory that builds on the successes of the Pandemic-EBT program and it will help prevent summer hunger. I have also been fighting for increases in funding to nutrition programs for seniors through the Older Americans Act, and I am grateful that this year's bill responds to increasing need amid growing demand and rising costs by including more funding for OAA Title III nutrition programs.

My Retirement Savings Lost and Found Act is enacted under this omnibus funding bill. These provisions will create an Office of the Retirement Savings Lost and Found to provide workers with tools to locate and manage accounts after leaving an employer. Tracking retirement savings accounts after leaving an employer can be extremely difficult, and many people lose access completely. The Retirement Savings Lost and Found Act will give workers tools to access and preserve their hard-earned savings.

Economic inflation caused by increased consumer demand, global supply chain disruptions, and the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia have shifted global markets and affected everyday costs. Higher prices are straining household budgets and depriving workers of the full benefits of our growing economy. I am pleased that this legislation includes a nearly \$2 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program and an almost \$1 billion increase for Head Start. These long overdue investments follow my continued calls to improve the care economy for families and care workers, including in two letters I led that were signed by more than half of the Democratic Caucus. Additionally, this legislation will help families with rising energy costs by providing \$5 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and expanding who can access the services of Community Action Agencies. Although these are needed investments to address housing affordability and childcare access, there is still much more we need to do, including extending the powerful, enhanced Child Tax Credit that House Democrats included in the American Rescue Plan and updating the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to remove barriers to housing development.

Ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms (HABs), and hypoxia are significant threats to coastal communities, industries, and Tribes across the United States. The ocean is resilient, but we cannot afford to wait to take action. I am pleased that this legislation invests in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Integrated Ocean Acidification Program to expand scientific research and monitoring of ocean acidification to identify risks and inform vulnerable communities, industries, and coastal and ocean managers of ways to prepare. The bill also includes harmful algal bloom and hypoxia research and monitoring investments through NOAA to strengthen research about environmental

stressors on our ocean and coastal resources and expand competitive research grants to study threats to ocean health. Although the bill does not include specific investments in blue carbon ecosystems, I will continue to advocate for natural climate solutions and appreciate the investments in improving the resilience of such ecosystems included in the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure law.

The Pacific Northwest must also be ready for a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and related tsunami, so I appreciate that this legislation contains funding for NOAA's Tsunami Warning Centers and for the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) to help prepare vulnerable communities in the event of a tsunami. Additionally, harnessing energy from waves, currents, and tides is an exciting frontier in the clean power sector, and I am pleased that this legislation includes funding for the Department of Energy's Water Power Technologies Office, which supports investments in hydropower, marine, and hydrokinetic energy technologies, including research at the Pacific Marine Energy Center in Oregon.

Education is one of the best investments our country can make. Every student in our country deserves access to a high-quality, well-rounded education, and this legislation makes investments in many important programs. I'm pleased that the omnibus legislation includes a more than \$70 million for the Institute of Education Sciences and encourages the pursuit of quick turnaround, high-reward projects to improve student achievement and advance education equity—language based on bipartisan legislation I introduced this year. Additionally, the legislation's \$1.38 billion investment in Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act will provide students with greater opportunities to receive an engaging, well-rounded education and support the development of safe, healthy, welcoming learning environments. I am also grateful that this year's federal budget continues the long, bipartisan recognition of the importance of the arts and humanities by providing \$207 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The NEA was instrumental in supporting local arts organizations during the height of the pandemic, and this additional funding will allow it to foster greater creativity and promote equity in the arts around the country.

Additionally, I secured more than \$35 million in Community Project Funding for 15 projects in NW Oregon that will make our communities stronger and create new opportunities for families and workers. Addressing the climate crisis and expanding access to affordable housing are top priorities in my work, and these projects reflect my commitment to putting forward real solutions to address the challenges we face. These projects will bolster the economy in Oregon by building more affordable housing, making our roads safer and more sustainable, supporting small businesses, enhancing workforce development to provide people the skills needed for advanced manufacturing and a good job, and promoting equity in foster care.

Notably missing from this end-of-year package is comprehensive immigration reform. Further inaction harms our communities and economy. Dreamers, essential workers like farmworkers, educators, and nurses, and

many more are stuck in our antiquated immigration system. Next year, I will continue fighting to secure the dignity of immigrants in our communities.

I would like to thank Chair DELAUNO and her staff for their tireless work to negotiate this important legislation, and I look forward to voting in favor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, on December 22, 2022, I instructed via email communication that my proxy record a NAY vote on the passage of S. 3773. However, the proxy inadvertently voted different from my instructions on Roll Call No. 541, the passage of S. 3773. I was recorded as voting YEA, when I instructed a NAY vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, on Friday, December 23, 2022, I was not present in the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 547.

EMMETT TILL AND MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 29, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 450, Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021 which will posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley. After which, the medal will be given to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

I loudly applaud and support the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021. The passage of this legislation is long overdue and today is a monumental day for the United States of America.

This bill, the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021, provides for the posthumous presentation of a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

After the award, the medal shall be given to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

In January of 1900, Ida B. Wells gave a speech declaring that our country's national crime at the time was lynching.

Lynching was a terror tactic frequently used against African Americans in the Jim Crow

South. At the time, no colored man was safe from lynching if a white woman, no matter what her standing or motive, cares to charge him with insult or assault.

Unfortunately, many innocent adolescents like Emmett Till fell victim to these tortuous killings.

Emmett Till was brutally murdered on August 28, 1955, for allegedly flirting with a white woman four days earlier.

The white woman, her husband and brother, made Emmett carry a 75-pound cotton gin fan to the bank of the Tallahache River. They then forced Emmett to remove his clothes.

The 2 men began beating Emmett, nearly to death, gouged his eye out, shot him in the head and then threw his body into the river.

Despite malicious efforts from authorities to quickly bury Emmett's body, his mother, Mamie Bradley demanded it be sent back to Chicago.

Here is where she decided to invite media outlets to Emmett's funeral, left his casket open during the funeral, and let these media outlets show the world what racist murderers had done to her only son.

It is, of course, fitting, and proper that this legislation bears the name of Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. Till's slaying in 1955 and his mother's decision to have an open casket at his funeral, stirred the Nation's conscience and galvanized a generation of Americans to join the fight for equality.

Fast forward to 1998 in the small town of Jasper, Texas, three white men offered James Byrd, Jr. ride home.

The next morning James Byrd, Jr.'s body was found. He was beaten, chained to the back of a truck, had spray paint all over his face, and dragged alive until he was decapitated, all because of the color of his skin.

This was an act of unfathomable racist brutality.

On February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Arbery was fatally shot and killed by Travis McMichael and his father George McMichael. Ahmaud Arbery was jogging through his neighborhood, unarmed, and was tragically killed by the McMichaels who claim they thought he was a local burglar.

They followed him in their truck and eventually shot him as he struggled fighting Travis off.

Local law enforcement attempted to cover up the killing by telling Arbery's family that he had been killed while committing a crime and that the men who shot him would face no charges.

Luckily, footage of the incident was taken and this footage was widely shared.

Finally, after national outcry sparked activism, the McMichaels were arrested and charged, and convicted in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery and given a life sentence.

This tragedy was immediately characterized as yet another modern-day lynching.

More than 150 years since Reconstruction, some still try to utilize false narratives that dehumanize people of color suspected of crimes to legitimate their inhumane treatment.

Sadly, hundreds of thousands of people of color have been killed, and many of the killers, like those of Emmett himself, were never successfully prosecuted.

Over the past half century, the United States has made tremendous progress in overcoming the badges and vestiges of slavery. But this progress has been purchased at great cost.

The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021 will ensure that Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley are properly honored for their sacrifice and commitment to equality and justice.

In doing so, this legislation will help move this Nation one step closer to fulfilling its promise that in America all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2617, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4373, FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1082, SAM'S LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote yes on the end-of-year funding bill. However, I object to a provision added by the Senate to the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA). The PWFA ensures that pregnant workers who work for employers with 15 or more employees have access to reasonable accommodations in the workplace for pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions.

Pregnant workers are just as capable as their colleagues, but if they are denied reasonable accommodations, such as water or rest breaks, some workers face increased health risks including premature births, pregnancy complications, and even miscarriage. The purpose of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) is to ensure that pregnant workers do not have to make the difficult choice between financial security and a safe and healthy pregnancy. Despite the purpose of the bill—which is to expand the accommodations for pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions—language was added by the Senate that may undermine the bill's purpose.

When the Senate finally considered the PWFA on December 8, 2022, it was after languishing in that chamber for over one and one-half years. It should be noted that PWFA passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 315 to 101, on May 14, 2021, with over 230 organizations ranging from the business community to religious organizations and other groups. Not a single one of these organizations demanded language to exempt employers from providing accommodations to pregnant and other workers with related conditions on the basis of the religious views of the employers.